

Listing of Claims:

1 (Original): A method for producing a print article including at least one printed product having inside and outside folded edges, said method comprising the steps of:

transporting the printed product on a saddle-shaped conveying section of a conveying track, the printed product straddling said conveying section;

wire-stitching the printed product along the outside folded edge thereof so that pre-formed wire sections point toward the inside folded edge; and

gluing the outside folded edge of a protective signature to the inside folded edge of the printed product to form a combined article.

2 (Original): The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of combining the printed product and the protective signature while on an additional conveying section of the conveying track.

3 (Original): The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of applying an adhesive to the outside folded edge of the protective signature before the protective signature is combined with the printed product.

4 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of applying an adhesive to the inside folded edge of the printed product before the protective signature is combined with the printed product.

5 (Original): The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of feeding a cover sheet to the outside folded edge of the combined article on an additional conveying section of the conveying track.

6 (Original): The method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of applying an adhesive to the outside folded edge of the combined article to attach the cover sheet to the combined article.

7 (Original): The method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of applying an adhesive to the inside folded edge of the cover sheet to attach the cover sheet to the combined article.

8 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the printed product straddling the conveying section is in an opened state.

9 (Original): The method according to claim 1, further including transporting the printed product in a closed state and reopening the printed product before combining with the protective signature.

10 (Original): An apparatus for producing a print article comprising at least one printed product wire-stitched along an outside folded edge with pre-formed wire sections pointing toward an inside folded edge, said apparatus comprising:

a first conveying section of a conveying track having:

- a saddle-shaped support for conveying the printed product, said printed product straddling the saddle-shaped support;
- a wire-stitching section for wire-stitching the printed product;

a second conveying section of the conveying track having a saddle-shaped support conveying a protective signature; and

a circulating intermediate conveyor positioned near the end of the first conveying section and in alignment with the second conveying section, the intermediate conveyor picking up the printed product from the first conveying section in a removal region of the first conveying section and transporting and depositing the printed product in an opened state onto the protective signature conveyed by the second conveying section.

11 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising:

an adhesive applicator positioned in an extension region of the second conveying section of the conveying track, upstream in a conveying direction of a delivery region where the printed product is deposited to the second conveying section from the intermediate conveyor, wherein the adhesive applicator is operative to apply an adhesive to an outside folded edge of the protective signature.

12 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising:

a feeder to feed the protective signature onto the extension region of the second conveying section, the feeder being positioned upstream of the adhesive applicator.

13 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the feeder is a fold feeder.

14 (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the intermediate conveyor further comprises an endless traction mechanism and grippers attached to the endless traction mechanism at regular intervals; to, wherein the intermediate conveyor is a time-controlled transporter and the are controllable grippers having opened and closed ~~positens~~ positions.

15 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the removal region of the first conveying section of the conveying track is operationally connected to a delivery region of the second conveying section where the printed product is deposited to the second conveying section from the intermediate conveyor .

16 (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the intermediate conveyor includes:

an ascending section positioned downstream from the removal region of the first conveying section; and

a descending ~~section oriented~~ section oriented in a direction toward the delivery region.

17 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the delivery region of the intermediate conveyor follows the descending section of the intermediate conveyor, and wherein the delivery region of the intermediate conveyor extends approximately in parallel to the delivery

region of the second conveying section.

18 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein at least the intermediate conveyor and the second conveying section of the conveying track are driven by a torque-controlled motor.

19 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the protective signature comprises a poster.